

Message Text

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15

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25

NEA-10 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

DRC-01 EB-11 AID-20 /208 W
----- 007952

O R 290926Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2309

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY BANKGOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: LAWS OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 060451

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, EMBASSY RAISED ARTICLE I
VOTING QUESTION MAR 27 WITH DFA SECY ROMULO'S
SPECIAL ASST. EMBASSY PROVIDED TALKING POINTS
BASED ON REFTTEL AND ALSO INCLUDED SUGGESTION THAT WORDING
OF ARTICLE I HAD VERY DIRECT RELAVANCE TO MUSLIM
REBELES IN THE SOUTH , I.E. PROVIDING BELLIGERENT RIGHTS.
WE ARE TOLD THAT TALKING POINTS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL
WITH GEN. ROMULO MAR 28 WHO NEVERTHELESS DECIDED TO UPHOLD
EARLIER INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HE HAD SIGNED OFF ON COVERING
THIS ISSUE. IN CONVEYING THIS INFORMATION TO EMBASSY,
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SPECIAL ASST. MADE CLEAR THAT DECISION BASED ON GOP'S

DESIRE TO RETAIN FRIENDSHIP OF ARABS. IN HOPES OF REVERSING
DECISION, AMB RAISED WITH UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES.

2. DESIRE TO RETAIN FRIENDSHIP OF ARABS HAS BECOME BASIC
PILLAR OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY. GOP BELIEVES THAT IT HAS
PAID OFF WITH RESPECT TO OBTAINING ARAB UNDERSTANDING OF GOP
HANDLING OF MUSLIM REBELLION IN THE SOUTH. WITH MORE REASON,
GOP BELIEVES THAT ARDUOUS WOOING HAS ALSO PAID OFF WITH
RESPECT TO ASSURING PHILS OF ADEQUATE OIL SUPPLY. WE EXPECT
THAT CONCERN WITH ARAB POINT OF VIEW WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT
AND DETERMINING ELEMENT OF GOP FOREIGN POLICY IN THE NEAR
FUTURE.

3. LESS IMPORTANT BUT NEVERTHELESS INFLUENTIAL TO GOP IS
VOTING BEHAVIOR OF ITS ASEAN PARTNERS. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT
MENTION IT TO GOP, WE NOTED THAT THAILAND AND INDONESIA BOTH
VOTED IN FAVOR OF ARTICLE I AS DRAFTED (AND WE UNDERSTAND
THERE WAS IN FACT FAIRLY STRONG SENTIMENT IN DFA FOR SIMILAR
VOTE). CHANGING VOTE FROM ABSTENTION TO NEGATIVE ONE WOULD
THEREFORE CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR GOP WITH ITS ASEAN PARTNERS.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN CHANGE POSITION BY FURTHER
REPRESENTATIONS. WE ACCORDINGLY CONCLUDE THAT GOP LIKELY
ABSTAIN ON ARTICLE I VOTE AND THAT CONCERNS WITH ARABS AND
ASEAN WILL PRECLUDE SWITCH IN GOP VOTE.

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